



FEATURED THIS MONTH: G Edwards / D Gillies / J Hay /
C Munro / A Paterson / G Paterson / G Smith / A Williamson

'A man is what he is on his knees, and no more.'

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Correspondence to: David Chalmers, 19 Durie Place, Edzell, DD9 7TS
Email: chalmersdj@gmail.com Mobile: 07939 599106

ISSUE 51 | APRIL 2023

■ GARETH EDWARDS (Perth)

Our weekly Sunday evening outreach in the village of Scone continues. We had a crowd of around fifty locals for a special Christmas event and have been encouraged by attendance and interest since then. We are planning a couple of other activities in the village around Easter time.

Our monthly community lunch in Perth has now been running for a full year. The most recent one was the biggest yet with forty-seven local folk attending. It is a great opportunity to share the gospel.

Numbers attending our two soup kitchens have also been up slightly recently and there's been a few people showing a bit of interest. I'm also continuing to send in audio recordings to the radio station at Perth Prison and converting some of them to videos for our social media channels.

In the lead up to Easter we expect to have another family fun day and I hope to produce and distribute another edition of our community magazine, The Signpost. We are also planning to recommence our weekly football outreach with young men after a break last year.

Thanks, as always, for your interest and prayers.



■ DAN GILLIES (Luthermuir)

In past issues we requested prayer for the salvation of Kelly, a lady from the village of Axbridge, Somerset, where our daughter Rebecca and husband Paul live. Paul and I first contacted her when she attended the gospel tent meetings almost seven years ago. I am happy to report that Kelly is now saved and we had the joy, along with local brother Simon Thomas, of speaking at her baptism on Saturday past, 11th March. A large company gathered and Paul had the privilege of baptising her. Some of her unsaved friends and relatives were present. She is already showing signs of spiritual growth and is diligently studying the scriptures. Do continue in prayer for her further spiritual progress.

I am expected in Magarahfelt for the first week in April for ministry meetings, then on 28th April we leave for Seoul, South Korea for just over a week of both gospel and ministry meetings. On Saturday 20th May we return to Glenluce for a further series of gospel meetings with the assembly there. The saints have been much encouraged of late with a couple being received into fellowship and another couple baptized and observing the Lord's supper. All these arrangements are of course subject to the Lord's will. Thank you all for praying.



JACK HAY (Perth)

The only gospel series I was involved in during the latter quarter of the year was a week in Harehills, Leeds. We never had big numbers but possibly eight to ten unsaved people heard the Word each evening.

During that latter part of the year I had some ministry in Windsor Belfast, Warrington, Ballywalter, Northampton and Wick. The Windsor series brought many young people, situated as it is in the heart of the student area of Belfast.

The annual Christmas Eve Gospel Meeting in Comrie was very encouraging with around fifty unsaved present plus children. Gordon McCracken had a word for the children in the course of the evening.

My first ministry series for 2023 was in Ballyvaddy where they had asked me to speak on prophetic themes. The hall was packed every night, and it was particularly encouraging to see good numbers of children, teenagers, and unsaved people too. Some of these would be hearing these truths for the first time. At the end of January I was in Colooney, Co. Sligo, an isolated assembly, but attending to a man, with good numbers of townspeople coming too. On a couple of the days I was able to help Jonathan Goodwin with some street preaching. He works part time so that he can devote time to that aspect of evangelism.

I had to cancel two series of meetings in February due to a health issue, but I am hopeful of commencing a short gospel series with Craig Munro in Linwood on 5th March DV. By the time you are reading this, the series could be over, but pray that seed sown will bear fruit. There will be a massive mail-shot of the area prior to the meetings.

A lady is to be baptised in Perth on 5th March DV. She had been contacted through the Sunday School work, and had attended various gospel activities before eventually professing faith in Christ at the end of a gospel series that Gareth Edwards and I had in Perth quite some time ago.

In November we had the 'Gorgie' special ministry weekend where many gathered as we dealt with truth relating to the family in Scripture. I also had a weekend of special ministry meetings in Tayport on assembly truth. The sessions were well attended, and we leave the word spoken with the Lord. We also had a week of meetings in Shetland (Sound assembly) with Alasdair Baijal. The weather was atrocious but still quite a number came to the meetings. A seventeen-year-old boy accepted Christ as Saviour. Alasdair stayed on for a few more nights in Scalloway and Brae and another young girl professed faith as well who had been attending all week. To God be the glory. I also had a Saturday night meeting in Prestwick Road, Ayr, a Friday meeting in Galston followed by the conference and our own Saturday night bible reading at the end of the month.

In December, Alasdair Baijal and I were in Fraserburgh for a week of gospel meetings. Joel Mclean was baptised on the first night which was a very encouraging start, and many came to hear the Word of God. There was good support from neighbouring assemblies and a number of 'men' came to hear the Word of God regularly, some showing signs of concern. The day will declare it. Alasdair and I were also able to have a special meeting on the 'incarnation' in Kirkcaldy as we try to teach new believers and people from the denominations. The monthly gospel meeting continues in Kirkcaldy, and 5000 calendars were distributed. We got a lot of help from young people up at New Year as well to do this which was very much appreciated. Other assemblies we were able to help were Gorgie (Saturday night bible reading), Kinross (gospel meeting), Kennoway, Mayfield for a Saturday night meeting and Treorchy. I also took the Sunday School prize giving in Glenraig with a jam-packed hall. This was a good opportunity to sow the seed of God's Word. The conferences at the end of the month were exceptionally well attended with many hundreds of saints hearing the Word. A highlight was seeing 350 young people singing at the supper on Old Years night after the Glenraig conference. We were struck by the potential for God. I was able to speak at the Aberdeen conferences along with Douglas Mowat for six sessions of teaching on the 2nd and 3rd January. The two days of ministry were also very well supported, and we detected the Lord's presence. We leave all the results with the Lord.

In January we received encouraging news that a couple were baptised in Glenluce. The couple were initially contacted during 'drive-in' meetings Jack Hay and I had in fellowship with saints in Newton Stewart and Glenluce. The couple then attended the Portable Hall in Port William and subsequently the meeting at Glenluce. Another man and his wife have been received into the Glenluce assembly. This man's father attended the same drive-in meetings for the first time and became the chain by which others were saved or restored and four (him, his sister, son and his wife) started to attend meetings in Glenluce. Our brother Dan Gillies along with local believers have been working hard in this assembly in the gospel and it is wonderful to see God working and the fruit developing. Praise God.

We were able to spend time in January with local believers, still relatively new in the faith as well as do some door to door knocking and completing calendar distribution around our own villages and in Kirkcaldy. We continue to give God thanks that there are always souls to preach to at our regular Sunday night gospel meeting and we know that many more listen on-line. We were also able to help local assemblies in bible teaching and gospel preaching, for example, Kinross, Gorgie and Kennoway.

We also enjoyed a week of meetings on the Tabernacle with the saints in Bedminster Road, Bristol. There was good support for the meetings, and it was a joy to see younger believers in fellowship and going on for the Lord in the assembly. Another young man has since been received into fellowship there.

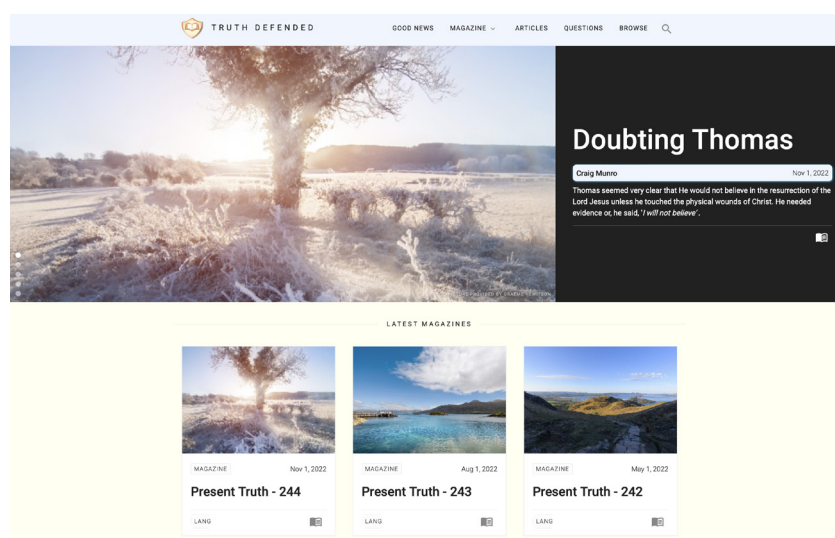
Please pray for the word spoken at two funerals of local people in **February**. The first contact we had with Betty was at the drive-in gospel meetings during covid restrictions. She and another of our neighbours started to attend our Sunday night gospel meeting when restrictions were lifted. She was only diagnosed with cancer a few months ago. Hannah and I were able to visit her a number of times before she died. We have reason to believe that she confessed Christ as Saviour (praise God). It was a large funeral as her husband was a Free Mason. I also took the funeral recently of a former neighbour of ours, Anna, again we believe she was saved later in life. She had become a regular at our Sunday night service until she was taken into a care home. The funeral was much smaller but, in both funerals, very few would have been Christians.

The gospel was preached at a local community venue on Wednesday nights along with Stephen Graham. There have been a number attending from the locality who do not come to the regular meetings in the hall. On the last night of these meetings a local boy was arrested after he left the gospel meeting. We pray for his salvation. We also took up the book of Romans on Friday nights with most encouraging interest and ministering the Word to the assembly at Musselburgh during their mid-week meetings. The monthly meeting in Kirkcaldy also continues with encouraging interest. We also took part in the funeral of dear brother Sam Johnston from Harley Street, Glasgow who is very sadly missed but is now at home with the Lord. I then preached at the Saturday night meeting in Barrhead. We were able to help the assembly in Headwell, Dunfermline as well.

The **Present Truth** is expanding into a number of language areas and the new web site www.truthdefended.com is proving to be a very useful asset to the work. Last year over 300,000 tracts were distributed by Scotland Needs the Gospel.

I am currently in gospel meetings with brother Jack Hay in Linwood (**March**) with an encouraging interest. We truly value the prayerful support of the saints and are thankful to the Lord for his unfailing goodness to us.

"His compassions fail not. They are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22/23).



■ AINSLIE PATERSON (Forres)

In recent months I have been engaging in visiting the contacts and acquaintances that I have established around our local area over the years. This has resulted in being invited into many homes, providing the opportunity to read the scriptures and pray with and for many of these dear souls. One of these is a man that I had visited since his wife passed away last year. My last

visit with him was at the new year time. He had been on my mind to visit again when I heard the news that he had passed away very suddenly. He had suffered a stroke and spent a week in hospital before passing away. We pray that the scriptures read during my visits may have been used by the Spirit to bring him to trust Christ as he lay in hospital. His mother-in-law was in fellowship with us in Forres until she was called home in 2008, so he would have been familiar with the gospel. Also one of his grand-daughters came to a teenage group that we held in the hall over fifteen years ago.

We have been encouraged to see a lady attend one or two gospel meetings in the past couple of months. I first met her through her connection to a man that I had some conversations with on the street. At the beginning of the lockdown period he was taken in to hospital and it was this lady who informed me. This gave me the "excuse" to visit her more frequently and speak on the doorstep, to ask after her friend. These conversations led to her receiving a Bible, and then in December she came to the hall with two friends, she has since been back to the gospel meeting, again accompanied by a friend. I met her in the street recently and she volunteered to tell me that she intends to come back to the hall. For these and many other dear souls we value your prayers.

God willing, Blair Martin and I will be yoked together with the assembly in Mayfield for a series of gospel meetings, which will also include a week of children's meetings. These are due to commence on Lord's Day 23 April. The support of the saints in prayer, before, during and following these meetings would be greatly appreciated.

■ GRAEME PATERSON (Plains)

I have just returned from Bangalore, India where I spent ten days. I had visited there in 2018 to spend some time in one school. However, the Lord opened up the way to visit six schools in the Bangalore area on this occasion. These are all Christian schools but 80% of the pupils are Hindu or Muslim. They are all very large schools with the biggest having 2400 children at assembly!

Each day I was able to have an assembly at a different school, then classes the remainder of the day. The response, behaviour and attention of the children was great. I was also able to spend time in a school established for children of quarry workers. These are very poor people and education is the only hope of getting out of living in squalor and horrific working conditions. The local believers are doing a remarkable work in this locality.

Prior to India I was able to return to Shetland in January. It was great to be back in Shetland and to have so many open doors in the schools which is a real answer to prayer. We were able to visit fourteen schools throughout the week and had very good feedback and invitations to return. The kid's club at Brae was not the biggest but they seemed to enjoy it and listened well. It was unfortunate that the weather took a turn for the worse and I had to leave early. However, these things are out of our hands.

The regular school work is extremely busy with classes and assemblies each day. We have been able to establish a rota of class RME teaching in many of the local schools and this allows me to be able to build up the bible knowledge of the youngsters. It does take up a fair bit of time and I can have up to eight, forty-five-minute classes a day so it is pretty intense.

Next month sees many Easter school opportunities and also Work Book Day classes. I have a one-hour workshop on the Bible which gives the history and relevance of the scriptures, then I have a writing exercise with quills and ink, you can imagine the mess! This year I will be in fourteen classes with this lesson.

Many schools have asked to have my Easter workshop in their upper school. This involves three sessions on the Crucifixion of Christ followed by an inter school quiz to test their knowledge and promote some healthy rivalry!

God willing, I will be in Faskally for a young folks teaching weekend then straight to Wick for a week of schools' and kids' clubs. The Lord has opened many doors in Caithness with ten schools booked in. One of these schools has asked for a Monday morning assembly then eight classes!

Locally in Plains we have just commenced our monthly community lunch. The first one was smaller than I had hoped but we're sure it will build up. Our Mother's Day tea is looking to be a great event with over 40 booked to come along so far. These events work well in the community and allow great gospel opportunities.

Please keep on praying that these opportunities will remain open to us, there are a great number of young people hearing and learning God's word.



GRAEME SMITH (Inverurie)

Bible Alive

We are grateful to the Lord for allowing Bible Alive to recommence for the first time since 2020! Around 350 pupils (aged eleven) in eight local schools participated in the seven-week programme which ran from January to March this year. Bible Alive gives an overview of the Bible in line with the Scottish curriculum and has been appreciated by many staff and pupils. Many pupils have understood the narrative of the Bible and now understand something of the message of salvation found only in the Lord Jesus. A small number of pupils have been asking searching questions about heaven and hell and how to become a Christian. Please pray that the good seed sown would reap an abundant harvest!

Bible Explorers Club

Our local Bible Explorers club for primary aged children continues every Tuesday evening and we have seen a slight increase in the numbers to seven! Two new children (aged five) have recently joined us and it is exciting to be starting again with a new generation!

Scripture Union (Woodside Primary School)

The after-school Scripture Union group at Woodside Primary is going well with the pupils attending regularly and enjoying the Bible stories and learning the verses. Please pray especially for one attendee who is of a different faith.



Scripture Union (Inverurie Academy)

We are so grateful to the Lord that after four months of prayer Inverurie Academy had its first SU group for a long number of years. We are grateful for the one pupil who attended this week! Please pray that many more would attend as word gets round.

We would appreciate prayer for the Bible Exhibition to be held in Inverurie Gospel Hall from the 15th to the 19th May 2023 D.V. Thank you once again for your prayers.

■ ANDREW WILLIAMSON (Culloden)

The Lord continues to strengthen and help me after my unexpected laying aside at the turn of the year. I am thankful to be back on my feet and able to engage again in work for the Lord. Truly 'our help comes from the Lord, who makes heaven and earth.' (Psalm 121v2).

In February, I was back to Bible teaching in Culloden, when I shared an ongoing series through Galatians with Michael Wilkie. This month I have recommenced our Home-Bible Study in 1 John, and intend to be out in the street with the gospel tomorrow for the first time since last year. We are also planning on a little gospel outreach in our local village hall of Croy over Easter - at Christmas we were encouraged to find an interest here, and are seeking to build on it.

There have been encouraging additions to the local assembly in Culloden. Several first-generation believers (and others) have joined us. It has been wonderful to see the effect of the Word in lives once affected by sin. How gracious is the Lord and how powerful is his Spirit!

Lindsey and the children (Isaac, Hannah and Hope) are doing well. Lindsey has had a few back issues recently - and is awaiting an X-ray to see if there is further damage. We would appreciate your remembrance of this in prayer - she has a busy time with the three children and restrictive back problems make her work difficult.

Please continue to uphold us in prayer that we might know the direction and leading of our God in a real way in the coming months.

Lindsey joins with me in thanking you for your upholding prayers.



All correspondence to: David Chalmers, 19 Durie Place, Edzell, DD9 7TS

Email: chalmersdj@gmail.com Mobile: 07939 599106